

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-captioned application is requested.

Claims 2, 9 and 11, which were considered to recite allowable subject matter, have been rewritten as new independent claims 14, 18 and 19, respectively. The language from original claim 1 that is incorporated into claims 14, 18 and 19 has been slightly changed to ensure that the claims are readable on a floor suction tool wherein the abutting member and the cover are separate members, or wherein the abutting member is a part of the cover itself (as described on page 10, lines 16-20 of the specification). It is not seen that such a language change affects the patentability of claims 14, 18 and 19.

New independent claim 13, which replaces original claim 1, distinguishes patentably over Platt and Japan '512. In Platt, the front portion 19 of the cover moves forward (and perhaps slightly upward) when a wall 17 of a room is abutted, rather than moving rearward and upward as recited in claim 13. In Japan '512, the front portion 49 of the cover moves downward and rearward when a wall of a room is abutted, rather than moving upward and rearward as recited in claim 13.

It is not seen that there exists any obvious modification of the suction tool of Platt or Japan '512 which would bring those tools within the scope of claim 13. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 13 and all claims dependent therefrom distinguish patentably over the cited prior art.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 12 have been amended to overcome the objections raised thereagainst.

The description has been amended at pages 1, 3, 6, 8, 10 and 11 to obviate the objections raised thereagainst.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in
condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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